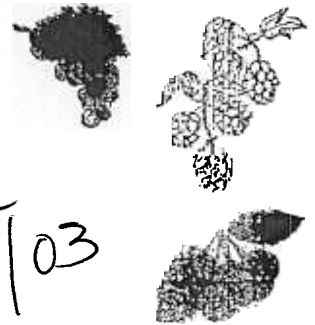




S.P. FARMS, INC.

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Rec
4/6/03

January 06, 2003

VIA FAX 202-720-8938

Docket Clerk
AMS Fruit and Vegetable Programs
Market Order Administration Branch
USDA Mail Stop 0237
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250-0201

Dear Hearing Officer:

This letter is to show support for an early hearing date for a Federal Marketing Order for Hops. This hearing process will give all Hop Growers the opportunity to voice their opinions on the New Federal Marketing Order.

I can see no problems among us growers to listen to all of the opinions as a part of the process. We should then be able to vote on a marketing order, either up or down, as to our own decisions on the information presented.

Again, please consider setting an early hearing date for the proposed Federal Hop Marketing Order.

Sincerely,

Steve Parrish/jls

Steve Parrish
President

SP/jls